

The Fishery for Nehu, Stolephorus purpureus, a Live Bait  
Used for Skipjack Tuna, Katsuwonus pelamis, Fishing in Hawaii

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# ABSTRACT

With increasing interest in the baitfish resources and their capacity to support local skipjack tuna, Katsuwonus pelamis, fisheries, we need to evaluate their distribution and relative abundance. This paper describes the trends in production of nehu, Stolephorus purpureus, an anchovy used as live bait in the fishery for skipjack tuna in Hawaiian waters.

Kaneohe Bay and Pearl Harbor, two of the most important baiting sites in the Hawaiian Islands, produce 71% of the bait. Another important site on Oahu, particularly for night baiting, is Kalihi-Keehi Lagoon.

Day baiting produced 79% whereas night baiting produced 21% of the State's nehu catch. Catches and baiting effort showed a downward trend in the day fishery and an upward trend in the night fishery in 1961-65. In 1966-72, however, catches and baiting effort increased steadily in the day fishery whereas they declined in the night fishery.